



MHEAC SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Connecting Alumnae Across Europe

Welcome Message

A Word from the European Council Chair

Dear all,

The days of isolation and social restrictions are luckily truly behind us, and during the past few months we have all tried to make up for the lost time, eager to travel and meet old and new friends again! Our newsletter bears witness to this enthusiasm: it shows how the members of our community have happily started to get together again, visiting museums, savoring great food, and sometimes simply enjoying each other's company and inspiration.



Browse this issue of our newsletter, enjoy the pictures of alums' gatherings all over the continent, and get excited about the preliminary plans for the 2024 symposium in Munich! You will also be able to celebrate the achievements of some of our members and to get to know the new president of the College, Danielle R. Holley, ahead of her

inauguration in the fall. Sadly, we also have to share the news of the passing of our former MHEAC Chair, Marcia Mead Lebre' 71. Marcia was a remarkable woman, who will be missed by all.

I wish you a good summer!

Silvia Maulini '80

Chair, European Alumnae Council

P.S. - make sure you follow us on [Facebook](#) or on [Instagram](#) for reading tips for the summer months. In cooperation with the Global Alum Alliance, we are running a special campaign to feature notable books written international alums. You certainly do not want to miss it!

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MHEAC Award for Graduate Studies in Europe



Congratulations to Natalie O'Neil '23, who is the recipient of this year's European Alumnae Council Award for Graduate Studies in Europe! Natalie, who graduated with a major in Russian and Eurasian Studies and a minor in Politics, will pursue an MSc in Media, Communications and International Journalism at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Natalie received her monetary award and diploma on campus in a small ceremony during commencement weekend. Attendees included Corinne Morgan '13, representing MHEAC, and representatives from the McCulloch Center, including Prof. Kavita Khory.

You can read Natalie's winning essay on our website

<https://new.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/europe/fellowships-awards/>



Looking Forward to 2024 Symposium!



The next Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Symposium will be held **in Munich in the fall of 2024**.

Spearheaded by German Delegate, **Catherine Jourdan '95**, the Munich Symposium will touch on the interaction of art and sociopolitical change:

Why are the arts in their many forms (fine arts, photography, literature, film, music, theater, architecture, other) so important? **Why should we care?** Because we know that cultural freedom cannot be taken for granted. **It is vulnerable.** It has again and again been **jeopardised by sociopolitical changes** (i.e. caused by dictatorships, religious fundamentalism, xenophobia, and crises of different kinds). We have seen developments like the rise of cancel culture and identity policy. If we don't succeed in preserving cultural freedom, **our democracy is in danger.**

We will explore this topic in the context of the world we live in and take the example of **Munich** as one of the cultural capitals of Europe.

We will consider questions, such as:

- How **far** are political leaders allowed to go to use the arts as a political tool?
- How far is art allowed to go to **generate change**?
- How does art **open new horizons** for people?
- How do **art and culture survive**?
- How does AI **enhance** or **limit** what we see?

Where do we go from here?

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and on the Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Newsletter to stay up to date.

Past & Upcoming Events

Belgium



November 2022

Festive alums gathering in Brussels to welcome a few new members of the local group. With J Jeneva Leire Patterson, Susan Taylor de Kerchove, Elisa Fertig, Erica Lutes and Jenne Whitelaw.

Bulgaria



September 2022

Tzvetomira Laub '05 and Guergana Gougoumanova '99 had a wonderful dinner in Sofia.

France



September 2022

Mountain Day in Toulouse

Laura Campbell and Crystal Menninga had a premonition Mountain Day would be soon, so they got together in Toulouse, France.



October 2022

Mountain Day at the Buttes Chaumont

French alums climbed the steep hill at the Buttes Chaumont in Paris on Mountain Day weekend and enjoyed ice cream together.



December 2022

Joyful Thanksgiving gathering in the Paris region! On December 3rd, 7 alums and guests got together for a traditional potluck dinner, graciously hosted by Barbara Greer '79. Specialties included a mâche salad with crapaudine beetroot, turkey, mashed potatoes and stuffing and homemade pumpkin spice cupcakes. It was a lovely evening!



January 2023

Neuilly sur Seine

Kiki Denis '94 hosted an alums get-together at her house in Neuilly sur Seine. It was a great way to welcome the new year with fellow alums, sharing experiences and tips about living and thriving in France.

Germany



Virtual Happy Hour with the Germany Alumnae, October 2022

On October 20, over 20 alumnae from across Germany came together for a virtual happy hour, sharing take-aways from the recent symposium in The Hague and brainstorming on potential topics for the next symposium in Munich in 2024.



November 2022

On November 13, the Munich group came together for a guided tour of an exhibit and performance of MHC alumna and reknown artist Joan Jonas ('58) at the Haus der Kunst, followed by drinks and nibbles at a nearby Weinstube. Attendees included Marion von Hofacker ('58), Nancy Kuehler ('65), Anke Ehlers (66), Pat Simon ('68), Bonnie Bachmann Ramjoue ('68), Donna Trippe Schlimm ('80), Nikola Busch Gossel ('88), Eva Boesze Leconte ('89), Catherine Jourdan ('95) and friends & family.



November 2022

On November 16, Leipzig alumnae Beate Renker ('94), Antje Kastner ('93), Isabell Sellmann ('01), Stephanie Scholz ('85) and Sophia Karr ('21) came together for an

afternoon of catching up and reconnecting. They have also since then welcomed new alumna Sophia Karr ('21) and semester abroad student Alexa Veliz ('24).



December 2022

On December 11, Munich alumnae Nancy Kuehler ('65), Catherine Jourdan ('95) and Marcia Schenck ('09) gathered for some muldwine, bratwurst and fried apple rings at the Christmas Market.



January 2023

On January 13, Munich alumnae Anke Ehlers (66) and honorary alumna Marianne Breuninger hosted Pat Simon ('68), Catherine Jourdan ('95) and Nancy Kuehler ('65) who shortly thereafter moved to Bremen for a lovely high tea and passionate discussion of symposium theme and venue options.



On January 22, Duesseldorf-Cologne alumnae Deborah Friedman ('89) and Allison Bouchat ('91) brought together Vanietta Canonico-Jahn ('77), Mary Alice Taliak Renners ('90), Barbara Ward Buehling ('81), Silviya Vlahova ('13) and Helga Leffelmann ('64) and Annette Fucke ('76) for a walking tour through historic Cologne and a lively Mexican dinner and catch-up.



February 2023

On February 27, close to 20 alumnae from across Germany came together for a virtual night cap, sharing regional and individual updates and discussing further thoughts on the theme for the next symposium to be hosted by Germany.



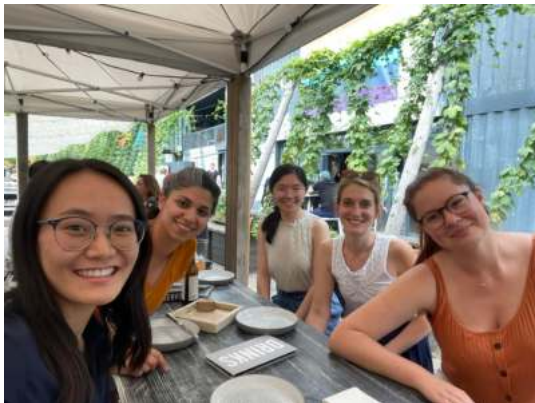
International Women's Day in Munich, March 2023

Pat Simon ('68), Catherine Jourdan ('95), Marcia Schenck ('09) and friends



On March 9, Munich alumnae Pat Simon ('68), Catherine Jourdan ('95), Marcia Schenck ('09) and friends gathered for a guided tour of the exhibit "Frei Leben! Frauen der Bohème, 1890-1920" which presented a thought-provoking retrospective on how far we have come with the place of women in society and sparked good discussion over coffee and

cake afterwards on how much more can be done.



Berlin 2023

Alums in Berlin love good food and they often get together! Well done to Hengjia Alice Fan '18 for organizing!

Bilateral Alumnae Gatherings 2022

In addition, there have been many amazing bilateral alumnae gatherings locally and internationally, including: Pat Simon ('68) and Elie Schulman Bartolozzi ('75) in December in Italy; Catherine Jourdan ('95) and Francesca Neroni ('93) formerly in Berlin and Munich, now in Rio, managed to see each other again after 30 years in January in Munich; Germany Alumnae Country Head Catherine Jourdan met up with Spain & Portugal Alumnae Country Head Elizabeth Ta'eed ('09) met up in April in the Algarve to connect paths, past and future, including planning the next Symposium in Munich in 2024.



Upcoming Event!

In September, the Munich group will come together for a **wine and cheese** event.

Great Britain

The Club of Britain, established in 1983, is celebrating its **40th anniversary**. This year the Club has a full complement of board members, including many recent graduates, thanks to an enthusiastic response from alums. The boost has enabled the club to achieve some ambitions, including providing a welcome pack for study abroad students.

September 2022

A procession of events has given alums fantastic opportunities to see new sights and meet other MoHos. **Jennifer Ransom '65** arranged a September visit to **St Mary's Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill**. Alums enjoyed a tour of the church building, begun in 1087, and sensational views over London from the spire, before sitting down for tea and cakes.



Mountain Day October 2022

Leeds alums



Mountain Day October 2022

St. Andrews alums celebrated



Mountain Day October 2022

Edinburgh alums



Mountain Day October 2022

London alums

Our January **AGM at the University Women's Club** featured a reception and an entertaining and enlightening talk by **Dr. Barbara Schwepcke '86!** Barb described setting up her own publishing house, Haus Publishing, an independent publisher of politics, history, memoir, travel, and biography. A Silent Auction launched at the AGM contributed £660 to support the club and to help reach our £5,000 donation to the International Student Fund at Mount Holyoke.

In February **Heather Hansen '94**, gave an online talk about her book **Walking Great Britain** and made us long to get out and about. Later in February, alums gathered for **Late Night at the Tate Modern** for an exhibition, *Celebrating the Work of Magdalena Abakanowicz*.

In March we celebrated another anniversary, **three years of Milk & Cookies online!** Many thanks to **Corinne Morgan '13** for hosting weekly Virtual M&Cs and for finding delicious cookie and confectionary treats. Join us on **Sundays from 7 to 8:30 pm BST**. All welcome!

April 23 - St George's Day Concert, Trafalgar Square, London-family activities

April 25 - Reclaiming Women in the Hebrew Bible with Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris '89 – Gresham College and online - 13:00 – 14:00 BST

May - Alums celebrated **Commencement weekend** with a **Laurel Lunch** at the Greyhound Cafe in London.



Upcoming Events!

Picnic in the Park!

Date: Saturday, 15th July

Time: 14:00 BST

Location: Regent's Park - Inner Circle

Come join us for a family friendly gathering in Regent's Park! Bring your own food and drink (or grab something at the cafe). Last year was a blast, and we can't wait to see everyone again this year!

Day Trip to York

Date: Saturday, 5th August

Time: Meet at 11:00 a.m.

Location: York Train Station RSVP

Please join Alex Slucky '16 on August 5th, 2023, for a day trip to explore the historic and charming northern city of York.

York, an ancient walled City in northeast England was founded by the Romans in 71 CE. Discover York's history through the ages of the Anglo Saxons, Danish Vikings, and Medieval kingdoms. Picturesque and old timey. It's a lovely day trip. There are lots of free things to walk around and see, such as York Minster and the historic city walls. Come join for a light jaunt back into time!

Greece

October 2022

Mountain Day in Athens with Jette Anya!





Get-to-gather March, 2023

Greece Country Delegate, Ioli Christopoulou, with Jette Anya and Tzitz Delgado for a Mini Class of 2001 Mount Holyoke Reunion in Athens, Greece!



Summer 2023

Recent summer laurel gathering at the Byzantine Museum in Athens!

Iberian Peninsula

Sunny get-together, April 2023

Warm Portuguese greetings from [Elizabeth Ta'eed](#) '09 and [Catherine Jourdan](#) '95. The MHEAC country heads for the Iberian Peninsula and Germany recently met in the Algarve. Inspired by the beautiful landscape, they enjoyed a chill glass of white wine and a great conversation, sharing ideas and plans for the Munich Symposium in 2024!

Ireland

Mountain Day, October 2022

A trip to Russborough House in Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Lunch and a walk in the grounds.

Italy

New Year Celebration 2022/2023

Patricia Simon '68 and Ellie Shulman Bartolozzi '75 celebrated the end of 2022 with a meeting in the Marche region in Italy!

February 2023

In February Claudia Palmira '95 had a lovely meeting with Nora - a recent alum who is spending the year in Rome.

The Netherlands

Symposium 2022

The European Alumnae Symposium gave Dutch alumnae a unique opportunity to meet with members of the global MHC community and representatives from the College. Twenty one local alums from all generations attended the event, some of them reconnecting for the first time since graduation. Quite a few alums actively supported the organizing team in many different ways, staffing the reception desk, contributing to panels and discussion groups, designing the logo, creating the table decorations, or simply offering a warm welcoming smile or a sleeping place to a participant. The symposium was a great success and it certainly helped to strengthen the ties within our local community.

November 2022

Following the Symposium, in November Claire Brouwer '57, Georgia Regnault '64, Silvia Maulini '80 and Claudia Wang '14 met at the Singer Museum in Laren to visit the art exhibition "The New Woman". The gathering was a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxed get together after the excitement of the previous month!

Get-together in Amsterdam

February 2023

After many years of correspondence and virtual cooperation, Vijaya Pastala '89 and Silvia Maulini '80 finally met in person in Amsterdam in February! Vijaya, who lives in Mumbai, is one of the founding members of the Mount Holyoke Global Alum Alliance, which is an ad hoc group of alum volunteers committed to voicing the interests, recognition, and engagement of the growing body of alums from or living outside the U.S. Silvia and Vijaya, who had been in virtual touch for years, enjoyed a lovely chat in a typical cafe in the center of Amsterdam.

April 2023 With Georgia Regnault, Claire Brouwer, Micha Heilman, Sophia Karr & friend Isabel, Isabella Zhang, Silvia Maulini, and Alejandra Neyra

Food and fun for alums in the Netherlands in April. The alums gathered at FoodHall Mout in Hilversum, which offers excellent street food from all parts of the world. It was a great opportunity to enjoy and share exciting dishes AND enjoy each other's company!

Norway

Get-to-gether April, 2023

Fantastic and energizing few hours of catching up, swapping podcasts, enjoying wine and amazing burgers, and much needed sibling-time with Mika and Tiffany!

Sweden

July 2022

Summer Brunch at Stockholm Brunch Club - Sunday, July 3, 2022 was attended by 4 alums.

September 2022

Waffles & Fun at Filmstaden - Sunday, September 18, 2022 was attended by 4 alums.

October 2022

Mountain Day Sweden!

November 2022

November Brunch at Fosch Artisan Patisserie - Sunday, November 27, 2022 was attended by 2 alums, one of whom was visiting from Lund!

January 2023

Country Delegate of Sweden, Nisha Nilsson and Country Delegate of Bulgaria, Guergana Gougoumanova, enjoying coffee/matcha latte during her brief visit to Stockholm from Bulgaria.

April 2023. Celebrating cherry blossom season at Kungsträdgården

Sweden alums: Alexandra D'Urso, Anneliese Lilienthal, Malin Cedermark, Nisha Nilsson and Sara Hendey

& enjoying a Japanese lunch at Saya Sushi.

June 2023

In June alums took a lovely walk along the forest trails around the Artipelag Museum, with Peppe Kuhavuori and Elisabeth Lee and Nisha Nilsson '91.

Switzerland

September 2022

Mountain Day

On 30th September 2022 MoHos from the Geneva Graduate Institute met at 18:37hrs to celebrate Mountain Day and get ice cream!

September 2022

Mountain Day

On 10th September 2022 Swiss Alumnae Group held its first live get-together after the pandemic. Eight alums and several friends and family members got together in the mountains near Bern to enjoy (of course!) ice cream but also delicious local cheese. The group enjoyed the traditional "cow parade" and some magnificent scenery.

**Thanks to everyone who joined, and to our local host Margo Cummings '92,
Regional Lead for Bern Region.**

November 2022

On 24th November 2022, the Geneva Alumnae group gathered for a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Christine Gora '98. Fifteen Mount Holyoke alums in Geneva got to have dinner together thanks to Christine's gracious invitation and the efforts of Geneva's Regional Lead, Maya Mauroof '22.

Turkey

Get -together in Istanbul

January 2023

Country Delegate, Zeynep Kurmus Hurbas, and Allison Lee met with a Sweet Briar alum, Jennifer at a wine bar at 1pm in Istanbul because ... Why not?

Welcoming the New MHC President!

Danielle R. Holley, noted legal educator and social justice scholar, became the twentieth president of **Mount Holyoke College** on July 1, 2023. The Board unanimously elected Holley following a thorough and inclusive search process. President Holley is the first Black woman in the 186-year history of Mount Holyoke College to serve as permanent president, and the fourth Black woman in history to lead one of the original Seven Sisters Colleges.

Since 2014, President Holley has served as dean and professor of law at the Howard University School of Law.

“In addition to her exceptional leadership and ability to cultivate shared purpose, President-elect Holley brings a strong vision for what Mount Holyoke is and, more importantly, what our College can become. She has a strong track record of strategic growth and innovation, which will serve us well,” said Mount Holyoke alumna and Board of Trustee Chair **Karena V. Strella** following the announcement of Holley’s appointment earlier this spring. “President-elect Holley is widely recognized for her broad intellectual interests and curiosity, as well as for her rigorous advancement of racial and social justice in the legal field and beyond. We look forward to welcoming her to the Mount Holyoke community, particularly as we continue our work together to create and maintain a culture of belonging and a society that advances the dignity of all.”

We wish President Holley all the best in her new function, and we look forward to meeting her in Munich in 2024!

You can read more about Danielle R. Holley here : [Introducing our 20th President](#)

Congratulations to Corinne Morgan '13!

Congratulations to Corinne Morgan '13, who was recognized with the Mount Holyoke Alum Volunteer Leadership Award 2023 during commencement weekend!

Corinne, who is the President of the Mount Holyoke Club of Britain and a member of the European Alumnae Council, is the initiator and the driving force behind the virtual M&C gatherings, which were launched during the Covid-19 pandemic.

These gatherings continue to attract alums from all over the world every Sunday evening. Her award citation acknowledges her role in playing a vital role in keeping alums connected in very difficult times and it praises her use of social media and other technological platforms to create innovative initiatives to connect alums.

Thank You to the Retiring Secretary of MHEAC

In December 2022 **Anita Pion Selec '88** left the European Alumnae Council after many years of service as delegate for Bosnia & Herzegovina and Secretary of Council. Anita relocated with her husband to her native Vermont after living in Europe for several years. All Council delegates joined in thanking her for her contribution to the group and wished her the best of luck in her new life in the States. The copies of the ***Uncommon Kitchens*** cookbooks that she received as a farewell gift will certainly continue to remind her of MHEAC and of all of us in Europe.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the European Alumnae Council informs you of the sudden passing of its former Chair **Marcia Mead Lebre '71**. Marcia, who lived in Paris, was one of the founders of the European Alumnae Council and a source of inspiration for Mount Holyoke alums all over Europe. For many years Marcia was the **driving force** behind MHEAC and the French Alumnae Club, and she was in charge of the organization of the 4th European Alumnae Symposium in Paris in 1995. Marcia, a **much loved and respected member** of our community, will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathies go to her husband Gérard, to her children and sister, and to all who loved her.

Her longtime friend Josette Ngan Caussiol '69 remembers her first meeting with Marcia at MHC and their years of friendship in France: "We first met at the swimming pool, during scuba diving classes in the fall of 1968. Imagine, scuba diving for 2 ladies more than half a century ago, and we had an introductory dive in Lake George. Our Alma Mater has always been ahead of its time. In Paris Marcia worked with her husband Gérard at their Parisian restaurant, hosting many delicious Thanksgiving meals for MHC alums and students. She also took up courses in writing & poetry, which were some of her passions. Her poetry readings were very moving. Marcia volunteered for many years at the American Library in Paris, where her work was greatly valued. She was a **generous, loving, ever-present personality**. According to ancient Egyptians, whenever a person's name is remembered and mentioned, this person is **ever lasting**. Marcia, you are **fondly remembered** by many of us."

Virtual M&Cs



In late March 2020, when most European countries started to embrace more and more social distancing measures, Corinne Morgan '13, President of the Mount Holyoke Club of Britain, thought it would be nice to set up a weekly virtual Milk and Cookies to help stay connected to one another and share thoughts and experiences in these difficult times.

The sessions, originally promoted to the British Club, were soon advertised to all members of the **European Alumnae Community**.

If you would like to take the opportunity to connect with other MHC alumnae, please feel free to join every Sunday evening at 8:00 PM (CET) 7:00 (GMT) at

<https://mtholyoke.zoom.us/j/99698796120> (please note new Zoom link!)

The link to the sessions is also pinned in our [Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Facebook](#) group page each Sunday morning, together with a yummy cookie recipe, courtesy of Corinne.

Looking for a group near you?

Get to Know the European Council Country Delegates

[Click Here for Contact Details](#)



**Mount Holyoke European Alumnae
Council**

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